



April 2015

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERS' MEETING

Poet Ina Coolbrith's Love of California Wildflowers

Speaker: Aleta George

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)



The California poppy was still ten years away from being named California's official state flower when poet Ina Coolbrith wrote "Copa de Oro" in 1893 and described the flower as being "brimmed with the golden vintage of the sun." In 1816 the orange poppy had been given the Latin name of *Eschscholzia californica*, but Ina preferred the older Spanish name, la copa de oro, the cup of gold. In 1915, the year Ina was crowned California's first poet laureate during the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, botanist Luther Burbank told her he had hybridized a poppy and named it 'Crimson Eschscholzia Ina Coolbrith'. She replied that when she wrote "Copa de Oro" she hadn't known she would become a member of the family.

Aleta George is the author of Ina Coolbrith: *The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate*, a new biography released in 2015. What better time than April, National Poetry Month, to learn about Coolbrith's love of wildflowers found in the Oakland hills and San Francisco's sand dunes? "For California is a poem," said Coolbrith.

Aleta George is a San Francisco Bay Area-based journalist who covers nature and culture in California and is a frequent contributor to *Smithsonian.com* and *Bay Nature*. This is her first book and she's thrilled to celebrate Coolbrith's centennial with us on Earth Day!

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Email sr0433@yahoo.com or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

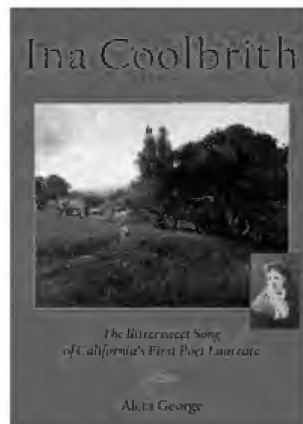
Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

Next Month's Meeting

May 27, 7:30 pm

Bart O'Brien, Director, Regional Parks Botanic Garden



CONSERVATION ANALYST FUND CLOSES IN ON GOAL

2015 Conservation Analyst Fund-- Help us protect the native plants we all love

Our Conservation Committee and Conservation Analyst Mack Casterman are on the offensive representing our native plants and their communities. The photo on the right below shows the damage done by off-the-road vehicles and what we will lose if 3400 acres of eastern Alameda County land are developed by the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area. The Environmental Impact Report will soon be released, our team will be examining it carefully, and that means Mack.

190 members and friends have made donations to support the Chapter and the half-time position of Mack Casterman, our professional Conservation Analyst. Please join us! We still need \$6020 to reach our goal of \$40,000. Please be as generous as you can be. Send your check made out to CNPS with "Conservation Analyst" in the memo to:

CNPS East Bay Chapter
PO Box 5597
Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705

You can also contribute via Paypal at: www.ebcnps.org

Thanks to these donors from February and March:

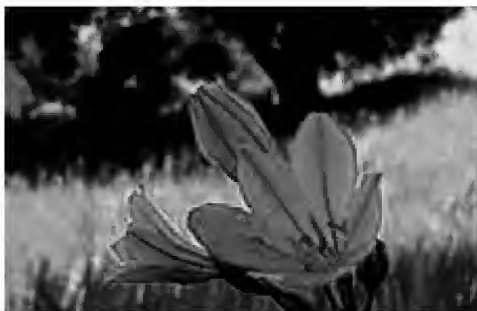
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View from Tesla Road into area proposed for off-road-vehicle use. Photo by Delia Taylor.



View from Corral Hollow Road. Photo by Delia Taylor.



Iturriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) beside Tesla Road. Delia Taylor.



Tesla vista

SURVEY OF UNUSUAL PLANTS

Request For Help Monitoring Unusual Plants

Another spring, another field season. Time to get out in the sunshine and search for our Rare and Unusual plants again. For those of you who may not know, our Unusual plants are those that are rare locally but not statewide. Some of these plants are even rarer in our two-county area than the statewide rare plants that occur here.

Field research for our Unusual plants has fallen off in the last few years as we have turned our efforts to producing an on-line version of the Chapter's database, *Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*. Although we have made great strides, we are still working on some final changes and improvements.

But the most urgent job right now, as another spring approaches, is to get our data up to date, and that is where you, our members, come into the picture.

We need any recent data (2010-present) that you may have for our Unusual plants. A list is available on the Chapter website of our locally A-ranked plants. Please review your field notes from your hikes, surveys, memory banks, etc. of the last 5 years in Alameda or Contra Costa counties. If you have seen any of these plants in our area recently, please contact Dianne Lake at diannelake@yahoo.com with the name of the plant, when you saw it, and a precise location. Or you may also download an Unusual Plant survey form from the website and email it to her. GPS coordinates or a map are also greatly appreciated.

We are also asking our members to go out this year and hunt for these Unusual plants and to report their findings. We need to know how these populations are doing, and especially to see how they are responding to the drought. A list is available on the Chapter website of the priority Unusual plant species and locations most in need of updated information. In addition, a list of Unusual plants known at a specific site or area, or a list of known locations for an individual Unusual plant species can be obtained by emailing diannelake@yahoo.com.

There are no formal group surveys for Unusual plants, but members are encouraged to go out on their own or to form their own groups to go out and survey for specific plants or groups of plants, or to survey specific areas for the Unusual plants in that area.

Identifications need to be verified for accuracy, so it is always good to have someone in the group who is familiar with East Bay plants, or verifications can also usually be made at the Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley.

So go out and explore our area, have fun, and let us know what you find!

Happy Botanizing!

Dianne Lake
diannelake@yahoo.com

SUDDEN OAK DEATH BIO-BLITZ

Help with East Bay Sudden Oak Death Bioblitz, April 11-12

Want to help the environment while enjoying the beautiful outdoors? Volunteers are needed for the 2015 East Bay "blitz" survey tracking Sudden Oak Death, the pathogen that threatens our beautiful coast live oaks.

On Saturday, April 11, you can attend a 1-hr training in one of two places easily reached by BART: at 10 am the Orinda Public Library Garden Room (sign up at wllhh@gmail.com) or at 1:30 pm in on the UC Berkeley campus (sign up at <http://sodblitz2015.eventzilla.net/>).

Then on your own schedule, you'll collect suspect leaves, returning samples to a drop box by Monday morning. You can survey in your own back yard, or anywhere outdoors.

Organizers will gladly suggest likely routes that work for you. After lab testing, results are made public in early fall.

Sudden Oak Death is a fungus-like water mold that has killed large numbers of tanoaks and oaks in the cool, moist coastal areas of Northern California since the 1990s. No cure has been found, but well-timed action can slow spread and save specific trees, as well as the many birds and other wild creatures that depend on oaks. For that, we need to know where SOD is spreading.

Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, who organizes the blitz surveys, also offers training on the UC Berkeley campus in how to deal with Sudden Oak Death. For information on those sessions, times of "blitz" surveys in other parts of the Bay Area, or information on past results or SOD generally, go to http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelottowp/?page_id=117.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

FEMA Finalizes East Bay Hills Fuels Management Plan. On March 5th, the Federal Emergency Management Agency finalized the environmental review process for its East Bay Hills Fuels Management Plan by approving the Record of Decision for the plan's Environmental Impact Statement. As I reported in the January update, FEMA changed the specifics of its plan between the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. The original plan called for UC Berkeley and Oakland to completely remove the eucalyptus forests in their treatment areas and to allow the native canopy and understory to return. In the final EIS, FEMA changed course and modified its document to require all the agencies (UC Berkeley, Oakland, East Bay Regional Park District) to only thin the eucalyptus forests. This plan essentially requires the agencies to manage the eucalyptus forests on their land as mature eucalyptus stands in perpetuity, at much cost to the native environment as well as the public's tax dollars. EBC-

NPS and our environmental allies were very disappointed to see this plan finalized, and we are now discussing potential next steps. We are hopeful that our continued work on this project will achieve a fuels management plan that achieves a win-win of protecting and restoring native habitats while at the same time minimizing wildfire risk in the hillside communities of the East Bay.

Volunteering: The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at (510) 734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects please visit the Conservation Blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

NATIVE PLANT SALE AT REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN

Saturday, April 18, 2015. Plant Sale 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Friends only sale 9:00-10:00 am. Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden memberships can be purchased at the door starting 8:30 am on April 18. (admission is free). Celebrate the Regional Parks Botanic Garden's 75th anniversary on Wildcat Canyon Road (between Anza View Road and South Park Drive) near

the Brazil Building in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley. First 100 kids will receive free plant (annuals donated by Bob Case). Please bring boxes or a small wagon to carry your purchases home. Our Email : bgarden@ebparks.org . Peek at the plant list posted on <http://nativeplants.org> .

ANTIOCH DUNES PLANT SURVEY

Time again for the annual counting of our two endangered plant species at Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge! We will be conducting our 2015 plant surveys of our two endangered plants, the Contra Costa wallflower in April and the Antioch Dunes evening primrose in May at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge in Antioch. It's a great opportunity to visit a special place that is not always open to the public. There are plenty of wildflowers and butterflies to enjoy. Please feel free to share this information with others who might be interested. Here's the lowdown:

When? Contra Costa Wallflower surveys will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, April 22 and 23, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Antioch Dunes evening primrose surveys will be on Wednesday and Thursday, May 20 and 21, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. **Who?** United States Fish and Wildlife Service staff and adult volunteers. We like to have around 10-15 people per day. Training will be done on-site that day

What to wear, bring and expect? Long pants (there can be scratchy plants and stickers), layered clothing, sturdy walking shoes, lunch and water bottle, sunhat, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Raingear is optional (you never know). We walk all day (with several breaks) on mixed, sometimes hilly terrain, with some plants/trees to step over, under and around. **Where?** Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge (Contra Costa County) See directions below. You can sign up for one or more days. For inquiries and to RSVP, please contact Susan Euing by email at susan_euing@yahoo.com or call office at 510-521-9717. Sign up early and tell your friends.

Directions: Antioch Dunes NWR (Contra Costa County) There are two separate units about 1 mile apart, Stamm and Sardis. From 680 heading north (near Walnut Creek/Concord), take Highway 242 E, which will lead you onto Highway 4 E towards Pittsburg/Antioch. Continue on Highway 4 for Xx miles to Antioch. From 680 heading south (from Benicia/Martinez), take Highway 4 E towards Pittsburg/Antioch. From here, see directions below for the day you will be going.

Wednesdays: Surveys will be held at the Stamm Unit at 501 Fulton Shipyard Road in Antioch. At Antioch, take A Street/Lone Tree Way exit and go left under freeway. Proceed about 1 mile on A Street and then go right onto Wilbur Avenue. At Fulton Shipyard Road (first light) go left. Cross railroad tracks and then see large brown refuge sign (2nd driveway on the right). Park along the refuge fence line.

Thursdays: Surveys will be held at the Sardis Unit at 1551 Wilbur Avenue in Antioch. At Antioch, take A Street/Lone Tree Way exit and go left under the freeway. Proceed about 1 mile on A Street and then go right onto Wilbur Avenue. Proceed on Wilbur about 1 mile, cross over a concrete bridge and look for two large PG&E towers on the left. The entrance gate will be on the left between the two towers. See large brown refuge sign next to gate. Turn left into the entrance and park at the bottom of the driveway.

If you get lost or your plans for that day have change please call Susan, (510) 377-5928.

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

The commitment and dedication of our stewards and long-term volunteers is transforming the landscape at Pt. Isabel's Bay Trail and its entrance at Central Avenue and Rydin Road. Stewards Sue and Oliver (he turned 10 last week) worked steadily through the winter in their section above the Hoffman Channel where their California poppies (*Eschscholzia* spp.), tansy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) and purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*) are beginning to flower. They have an expanding section of yampah (*Perideridia* spp.), intended to attract the lovely Anise Swallowtail, that we hope will one day replace the fennel that once covered the area. Lewis, Tyson, Nina, Nathan, John, Gudrun, Miriam, Rob, Manish, Arthur, and Margot turn out regularly to weed and water and pick up trash, transforming the marsh edge into a rich and inviting habitat for the wildlife that live in and around the marsh. We're very grateful to this committed group of volunteers for

all the hours they have contributed to making this section of the Bay Trail so healthy and vibrant.

In March we focused our attention on removing weeds that were flowering and in settling in the remaining native plants provided by small grants from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee and Carpet Contractors, Inc., a business located in the office park. Volunteers have been coming out from all over the area and have all made a welcome contribution including Boys Team Charity from Lamorinda and students from Berkeley High. We couldn't accomplish as much without the help of those who appreciate the beauty of nature and the importance of contributing to its health.

Pictures by Jane Kelly of restorations teams below.



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 4, 1 pm-about 3 pm, Warm Springs vernal pools (San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge)

Come see the wildflower rings around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay! Visitors will enjoy learning about the unique features of vernal pool vegetation and surrounding grassland. We will get to see the endangered plant species in this habitat, particularly the rings of endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*). Bring water, sunhat, your *Jepson Manual*, cameras, and be prepared to walk through uneven terrain throughout the tour. Carefully managed grazing has reduced *Bromus diandrus*, but be prepared with long pants and sturdy shoes.

Please contact akakouros@sfbbo.org or call (408) 315-4313 to reserve a spot. Space is extremely limited and reservations are required. Driving directions will be e-mailed once reservations are confirmed.

Saturday, April 4, 9:45 am, East Trail at Mount Diablo State Park, 9800 Marsh Creek Rd. Carpool at Orinda Bart. Leave Orinda BART at 9:10. Meet at Berkeley side of station, in second small parking area north of the station entrance. No dogs on this walk.

Meet across from the Divide Reservoir sign on Marsh Creek Road in Clayton. This trip goes through some spectacular native plant habitat on the northeast side of Mount Diablo, with an interesting live oak forest. This walk has 1600 feet elevation gain on the way out, and downhill on the return. The round trip is about 6 miles. Figure on returning to the parking area around 3-4 pm. Bring lunch and water. We will take 3 Springs Road, Olympia Trail, East Trail.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ygnacio Valley Road. Continue on Ygnacio Valley Road several miles from Walnut Creek into the city of Clayton and turn right onto Clayton Road. Don't turn right on Marsh creek road. Continue on Clayton Road, it later becomes Marsh creek Road. Look for the Divide Reservoir sign on the left. Park across the street from the Divide Reservoir sign. Don't park across from the Nob Hill Reservoir, keep going.

Safety: Outdoor activities are inherently risky. On hiking trips, grave injury and death are not out of the realm of possibility. By coming on this trip, you agree to be 100% responsible for your own health, safety and well being. If you bring a guest(s), that guest(s) will be 100% responsible for his/her own health, safety and well-being.

Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am, Chapter field trip to Jepson Prairie. Meet other East Bay chapter members at Jepson Prairie. Docent Russ Huddleston will provide the invertebrate dipnet tour, but then will also proceed to the botanic tour of vernal pool flower rings. You can go to Jepson Prairie most weekends until early May, but this tour will allow time and space to bring the *Jepson Manual* or other key of your choice, and photographers can crawl as they wish to set up tripod and

close focus shots. If you wish to offer a ride to Jepson Prairie (near Travis Air Force Base in Solano County), please e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com, so we can decide on a meetup site for carpooling from the East Bay.

Saturday, April 11, 9:45 am, Toyon Canyon at Briones Regional Park, Briones Road Staging Area

Native plant expert Gregg Weber leads this trip to a floristically rich area of Briones Regional Park. Toyon canyon trail descends 300 feet, to the creek, and a 300 foot elev gain follows.

We will see unusual plants such as Western viburnum, bent-flowered fiddleneck, tufted poppy, Mount Diablo sunflower, and Eucrypta, plus many more familiar plants such as silver leaf bush lupine, coyote mint, mules ears, pipe stems, hop tree, Dutchman's pipe, and osoberry. We will return to the cars at about 2:45 pm.

Directions: From west of the Bay hills, go east on 24 and exit at Pleasant Hill Road. Go north on Pleasant Hill Road 0.5 mile and then turn left onto Reliez Valley Road. Go 4-5 miles on Reliez Valley Road to its end at the junction with Alhambra Valley Road. Ignore the entrance signs on Reliez Valley Road and continue straight on Alhambra Valley Road to the first hard to see, tiny road on the left, which is Briones Road. Go about 1.5 miles to the end of Briones Road and park on either side of the road. For the Pinole/Martinez area, just proceed down Alhambra Valley Road and follow the directions to the end of Briones Road.

Sunday, April 12, 9:45 am, Mount Diablo burn area. Mount Diablo State Park. Burn area between three springs and North Peak. Meet at the parking lot off of Morgan Territory Road. We will be walking on steep loose rock and gravel. It is tough on the ankles. Elevation gain 800 ft. Distance about 4 miles. We will return to the parking lot around 2-3 pm. Bring lunch and water.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ygnacio Valley Road. Continue on Ygnacio Valley Road several miles from Walnut Creek into the city of Clayton, and turn right onto Clayton Road. Don't turn right on Marsh creek Road.

Continue on Clayton Road, it later becomes Marsh creek Road. Continue on Marsh Creek Road, until you see Morgan Territory Road Y off the the right. The parking lot is the first right turn off, and park right next to the road. Don't go down the driveway.

Saturday, April 18, Mt. Diablo Green Ranch Road

Carpool at Orinda bart. Leave Orinda Bart at 9:10. We will meet at Oak Knoll picnic area on Summit Road, a little past the Junction Ranger Station. No dogs on this walk.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

We will go on Green Ranch road into the chaparral areas near Rhyme Canyon. This trip has 700 ft elevation loss to Rhyme Canyon, and 700 gain on the way back. Distance is 6 miles. There should be several species of unusual fire following plants in flower on this trip.

Directions: Take 680 to the Diablo Road exit, and go east on Diablo Road At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go on and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mount Diablo State Park sign. Continue to the end of Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Pay the \$10 gate fee at the entrance station (or have your state parks pass visible). Continue to Junction Ranger Station, and turn right. Oak Knoll Picnic area is on the right, just past Blue Oak picnic area.

Safety: Outdoor activities are inherently risky. On hiking trips, grave injury and death are not out of the realm of possibility. By coming on this trip, you agree to be 100% responsible for your own health, safety and well being. If you bring a guest(s), that guest(s) will be 100% responsible for his/her own health, safety and well being.

Sunday, April 19, 9:45 am to 3:00 pm, Devil's Elbow parking lot. See eight species of *Phacelia* in one day

Mt. Diablo State Park, Mary Bowerman Trail, North Peak trail, Muir area, Burma Road. We will drive to these 4 trail heads, and do short walks at each location. Mary Bowerman trail: .75 mile, North Peak trail: 1 mile, Muir area: .25 mile, Burma Road: .75 mile.

We will attempt to find most of these in flower:

- 1 *Phacelia breweri*
- 2 *Phacelia distans*
- 3 *Phacelia divaricata*
- 4 *Phacelia imbricata* subsp. *imbricata*
- 5 *Phacelia nemoralis* subsp. *nemoralis*
- 6 *Phacelia phacelioides*
- 7 *Phacelia rattanii*
- 8 *Phacelia tanacetifolia*

Bring food and water. There is a restroom at the summit parking lot.

Directions: Take 680 to the Diablo Road exit, and go east on Diablo Road. At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go past and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mt. Diablo State Park sign. Continue to the end of Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Be prepared to pay the fee \$10 at the main entrance station, or have your state parks pass ready. Continue on South gate rd to Junction Ranger station. Turn right onto summit road. Continue on summit road, past

the huge Juniper camp parking area, then another 1.2 mile to Devil's Elbow parking area. There is parking space on both sides of the road.

Drive time from Berkeley, Oakland, Martinez, will be about an hour or more, since this starts near the summit of Mt Diablo. Allow 30 minutes from the park entrance to get to the meeting spot.

Sunday, April 19, 2 pm, Sunol Regional Wilderness

Meet David Margolies at the bridge crossing Alameda Creek near the Visitor's Center. We will hike the Canyon View Trail to Little Yosemite and back on the fire road. Elevation change maybe 600'. A moderate hike, about two hours or so.

Sunol has meadows and oak woodland, with many annuals, interesting trees, lily relatives and other perennials.

Directions: From Berkeley/Oakland and from Contra Costa County: take I-580 east (from west of the hills) or get on I-680 south and drive to the junction of I-580/I-680 in Pleasanton. At the junction, go south on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road/ Highway 84 just south of the town of Pleasanton. Turn left onto Calaveras Road and proceed to Geary Road, which leads directly into the park. There are extensive parking lots. Meet at the location given above. Rain is unlikely but the walk takes place rain or shine. There is a fee to park. Contact David at (510) 393-1858 or divaricatum@gmail.com for further information.



Diogenes' lantern (*Calochortus amabilis*). Photo by Celia Zavatsky.

SPRING WILDFLOWER REPORT

This is a follow-up on the wildflower report I sent out April 27, 2014. So much is topsy-turvy in the plant world because of our weird weather.

Cache Canyon is great now (March 19 and 20, 2015) along Highway 16. Highlights: thousands of foothill poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*) cascading down the steep south and west facing canyon walls like yellow-orange waterfalls; virgin's bower (*Clematis lasiantha*) beginning to frost the top of practically every shrub on each side of the road and the shrubs and trees up the canyon walls; California ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*) flowering in abundance with lush pendulous inflorescences. All three were excellent on the 19th, and the next day were even better—the *Clematis* and *Fraxinus* were still on the way to peaking—the poppy cascades may be burning off very soon. Also just before getting to Cowboy Camp from the south on Highway 16, on the east side of the road in the distance there were three or four large patches of blue close to the ground as if they were goldfield patches—only they were brilliant, glowing blue! Probably *Lupinus*, but I never saw miniature lupine (*L. bicolor*) look like that.

Bear Valley Road: April flowers don't realize it's still March. The tidy tips (*Layia*) in and around the corrals are rapidly

reaching their peak—notably more color today than yesterday. More color than usual along the road -- even the *Dudleya* were about ready to flower. A couple of fresh dense cascades of Jepson's milk-vetch (*Astragalus rattanii* var *jepsoniana*) looking big, fresh and happy. Intensely blue-purple larkspur, probably royal larkspur (*Delphinium variegatum*) blooming at the beginning of the Valley (it was also blooming in abundance along parts of Highway 16 in Cache Canyon). The pink adobe lily (*Fritillaria pluriflora*) has mostly finished blooming. There were only a few fresh flowers here and there. My feeling is that they peaked last weekend. There was not much happening quite yet on the part of the road going east-west; it may be drying out. There was only one plant of cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*) in bloom near the bridge at the edge of the creek. I did not go much beyond the bridge. By the way, a lot of arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*) was already beginning its bloom along the approach to the valley (it comprised the "giant wedding cake of lupines" I raved over last spring)—they may even peak in a few days to a week. Last spring it was at its best April 26-28.

Walker Ridge Road: Much more in bloom than usual driving from south end to mid-way -- again because some April blooms were beginning, or even ending, now. However, I



A field of Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) in the Central Valley on the way to Highway 16. Photo by Celia Zavatsky.

SPRING WILDFLOWER REPORT

didn't see manzanitas blooming like I usually do in March. Again, I was seeing blooms I'd usually expect in the last half of April. There were too many to name them all.

Did Wayne's Knoll last: It was wonderful. There were all the usual plants, but in abundance. *Fritillaria pluriflora* flowered early, however, as capsules were at least 1/3 full grown. Checker-bloom (*Fritillaria affinis*) (the miniature-flowered one that blooms here) looked like they might have dried out or been eaten before being able to set seed. Lots of *Calochortus amabilis* were beginning to bloom, with lots more still in bud—they may make as good a display as last year, only much earlier. Widehead groundsel (*Packera eurycephala* var. *eurycephala*) (formerly *Senecio eurycephalus* var. *eurycephalus*) is already beginning to bloom. It **never** blooms this early! Hoover's lomatium (*Lomatium hooveri*) was in abundant bloom, but were already some going to seed. There was a

splendid early spring display near the parking area with large patches of purple owls' clover, blue larkspur, butter and eggs, goldfields, native clovers, etc, etc. Lovely to each lunch with. It will probably burn off soon unless there's some rain.

This report is incomplete, but in case you did want to see this mix of early and mid-season blooms, now is the time to go. Of course that may be the case no matter where we go this year.

Celia Zavatsky

P. S. If you were planning to visit Jepson Prairie, the sooner the better,— but if we have rain that extends into the Central Valley tonight, it may extend the bloom some. East Bay CNPS will have a field trip there Sunday, April 5. See the field trips article on page 5.



Top: owls' clover, butter and eggs and delphinium; below left: Jepson's milk vetch; below right: widehead groundsel. Photos by Celia Zavatsky.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Wednesday, April 1, 7 pm, SPAWNERS talk at El Sobrante Library on California biodiversity and geology (not a weed-ing event, but valuable background for restoration volunteers). El Sobrante Library Community Meeting Room, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. Did you know that California is home to more unique species than any other state? This is in part due to the geology of California. Geologic forces have pushed up dramatic mountains, gouged deep desert basins, and shaped many other landscapes.

Join UC Davis geologist Andrew Fowler for a discussion about how the many different climate zones and the variety of rock types resulting from geologic forces contribute to the state's amazing plant diversity.

Saturday, April 4, 9 am-1 pm, Genista rip at Redwood Park and again on Sunday, April 12, 9:30 am-1:30 pm

Meet at the Canyon Meadow picnic area/parking lot, where we will join park staff, get tools and go to pull French broom. You can reach Canyon Meadows by going in the main entrance at Redwood Road. If the entry kiosk is staffed, tell them that you are there to rip French broom.

Saturday, April 4, 9:30 am, Point Isabel/Eastshore State Park. Point Isabel, on the Bay Trail next to the dog park. Just off I-580 (take Central to the bottom of the I-580 overpass). At the stop sign (Rydin Road) turn right and come down to the end of the street. If you pass Costco on your right, you've gone too far. Contact info: Tom Kelly (510) 704-8628 (work), (510) 684-6484 (cell) or tkelly@kyoutousa.org.

Saturday, April 11, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Park

Huckleberry Park is gorgeous, but it will remain so only with removal of exotic species that slip downhill into the park from the residential area along Skyline.

Sunday, April 12, 9:30 am, Redwood Regional Park.

Meet at "Redwood Bowl" next to Chabot Space and Science Center (instead of Canyon Meadow)

Saturday, April 18, 9 am-noon, Earth Day in Garber Park

Meet at the Claremont Avenue Entrance for coffee, snacks.

EAST BAY FOREST HISTORY TALK

April 14, 7-9 pm, Bay Currents talk: How the East Bay Got its Forests

The East Bay was mostly open grassland when European settlers arrived; today much of it is an urban forest thick with non-native eucalyptus and Monterey pine. In the East Bay this transformation was mostly the work of one remarkable man! What became of his dream, and how do we deal with his legacy today, amid dense development, drought, changing climate, and wildfire risks?

From 7-9 pm on Tuesday, April 14 join Jerry Kent to discuss the East Bay forest's colorful past and uncertain future. Jerry

Then be ready for a fun morning of restoration work. Help clean up and improve the parking area, weed along the trail, or spend the morning in lovely Fern Glade clearing the ivy and other exotic weeds away from the existing population of ferns. Everyone welcome, no experience necessary. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. We provide tools, water and snacks. Contact: Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.com

Saturday, April 18, 9 am to noon, Earth Day, Beaconsfield Canyon

Volunteers have been clearing and restoring this 5.5-acre canyon in upper Montclair since 2007. Once slated for development, this city-owned open space harbors four different habitats and a wealth of native plants (some 1,000 that we've planted), including a stand of rare black cottonwood trees. Volunteers meet the last Saturday of most months, 9-12. All are welcome. For information, contact Richard Kauffman at richard@rkcommunications.com.

Sunday, April 20, 9 am, Sibley Regional Park

We need all the help we can get at Sibley Regional Park where we are fighting a large stand of French broom. We have cleared a large area but the drought and summer heat last year did not kill the seedlings and now we are facing formidable re-growth in the cleared areas. The good news is that native grasses are returning to the areas we've cleared, if only we can fight back the re-growth. Please come protect this grassland and maintain a firebreak as well! And call your friends too—we need them!

Sunday, April 26, 9 am, Redwood Park rogue pull (as in bring your own water, glove and gear).

Restoration crews for Huckleberry and Sibley parks will meet in their respective parking lots off of Skyline Boulevard in Oakland; the Huckleberry parking lot is about a half mile south of the Sibley entrance. However, if you plan to enter Sibley from the Old Tunnel Road staging area, or have any other questions, please e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or sibley@ebparks.org.

retired as Assistant General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District after a 41-year career. A history lover, he has collected maps and photographs and researched many aspects of East Bay nature and history.

Free Bay Currents talks, sponsored by Friends of Five Creeks, are second Tuesdays, fall-spring, at St. Albans Parish Hall, 1501 Washington (at Curtis, one block north of Solano). Refreshments 7 pm, talks 7:30. The full schedule is at www.fivecreeks.org, where you can also signup to get notices.

Susan Schwartz
Friends of 5 Creeks

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

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mlbooz@calnatives.com

Native Here Nursery

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Manager--Theo Fitanides
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Adam Huggins

Plant Fair

vacant

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Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
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I wish to affiliate with:

☐ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

☐ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

- ☐ Individual, \$45
- ☐ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- ☐ Plant lover, \$100
- ☐ Patron, \$300
- ☐ Benefactor, \$600
- ☐ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- ☐ Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- ☐ Other _____